



FAIRCHILD CONNECTION

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Tanker pride



Staff Sgt. Greg Davis

The KC-135s fuel capacity is 31,275 gallons or 203,288 pounds in 10 tanks. That's enough for a 30-miles-per-gallon car to drive 938,250 miles, the equivalent of about 118 trips around the earth's equator.



Airman Christie Putz

Kitty Hawk for Cancer

Bob Alm's Breezy, a modern-day replica of a Wright brother's era aircraft, made an icy landing at Fairchild the afternoon of Nov. 21. Fairchild

was the first stop in their trip to Kitty Hawk, N.C., which celebrates the Centennial of Flight and raises awareness of cancer.

Fairchild female first to land SOLL II slot

By Airman Nathan Putz
92nd Public Affairs

An airman from the 92nd Communications Squadron, Global Reach Communications Element will depart Fairchild to be part of the 437th Operations Group, Charleston AFB, S.C., and the first female to be assigned to the C-17A satellite communications position or "Soll II."

Airman 1st Class Deborah Murphey, satellite and wideband communications technician, 92nd CS, is scheduled to depart Fairchild in late January.

"The mission is called special operations low level 2, or Soll II," said Tech. Sgt. Bradley Smith, Soll II division NCOIC, 437th Operations Group.

Their orders come

directly from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and their missions range from below radar flights to deploy or collect special operations forces, to provide airlift support.

"Airman Murphey applied for the position, qualified on her flight physical and completed altitude chamber training," said Sergeant Smith.

She will now complete combat and parachute survival training before beginning her position on the "Soll II" missions.

"I noticed the assignment on EQUAL Plus while I was deployed and felt it was the right thing for me," said Airman Murphey.

"After applying for the position, I received a letter from my commander and began the interview process," she said.

Airman Murphey spoke with members of the 437th OG on multiple occasions and began completing the certification process.

"Airman Murphey is a hard charger and has great initiative to get the work finished with the best possible result," said Staff Sgt. Camille Tolentino, satellite communications position team chief, 92nd CS.

"I didn't apply for the position because I was a woman, I applied because I thought I would really enjoy it," said Airman Murphey. "Originally I came into the Air Force to learn a job that would be useful in the civilian world."

Airman Murphey said she kept her expectations to a minimum, but received an adventure and a great growing experience.

"I was very lucky to have

Fairchild as my first duty station and feel that being part of the GRCE has prepared me for the new position," she said.

"This is a very unique shop and everyone works high-paced. I try to put forth my best effort, and they are there with me every step of the way," he added.

Airman Murphey's work has not gone unnoticed by her co-workers and supervisors.

"She claims she gives 100 percent in all her work, but in reality she is giving 150 percent. Her self image pushes her to set such high goals and her initiative gives her the charge to do it," said Sergeant Tolentino. "I'm sure she will succeed in whatever situations and difficulties her new base has to offer."

Air Force leaders thankful for all who serve



Dr. James Roche
Secretary of the Air Force

WASHINGTON D.C. (AFP) — *The following is a Thanksgiving message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:*

“Thanksgiving is a wonderful national tradition that provides a special opportunity to recount our blessings as Americans. “Today, we have much for which to be thankful. We serve a free and peace-loving nation that appreciates what we do to preserve our security. Our Total Force of more than 700,000 active, Guard, Reserve and civilian airmen is blessed with world-class capability and

training that has been tested and proven on the battlefield. “We are a force of professional airmen, forged in combat, but dedicated to the pursuit of peace and security, and situated on an unshakeable foundation: our integrity, excellence and the privilege of serving a cause greater than our own self interests. “For your service and support of those bedrock principles, we offer our sincere and humble thanks. You are the strength and power that symbolizes America’s Air Force — the world’s greatest air and space power.

“On this Thanksgiving Day we are thankful for each of you who serve — you are remarkable people, many of whom are deployed far from home engaged in the Global War on Terrorism. We encourage those who are not deployed to remember the families of deployed airmen and include them in your holiday plans. “We’re very proud of you and your families who have answered our nation’s call. Thank you for your dedication and professionalism while protecting our cherished freedoms. Happy Thanksgiving.”



Gen. John Jumper
Chief of Staff of the Air Force



By Col. Anthony M. Mauer
Commander, 92nd Air Refueling Wing

This week marks the beginning of our holiday season. Many of us will sit at the table with family and friends celebrating and giving thanks for all that we have. There are a few things that I think we should keep in mind this year. Since the last time we gathered to celebrate this holiday, many of our brothers and sisters have given their

lives in the fight against terrorism. We also have many of our loved ones away from home this holiday season, some left this past Monday and will be gone through the new year. Our fight against the evils of terrorism is far from over. What makes this country great is the volunteers that raise their right hands and swear to defend this nation, and if necessary, to give their life in its defense. We don't force our young men and women to serve their nation, they do it because they believe in giving back to a country that has given them so much.

As we gather this holiday season, let's remember the brave men and women that have given their lives in the pursuit of peace and those who are far from home ridding the world of the evil terrorist whose soul purpose is to harm our country. Finally, lets pray for our families who give so much to our country and to us. Their patience, understanding and support is the backbone of our cause. Thank you for all you do to make our Air Force, and our country, the greatest in the world.



Col. Anthony M. Mauer
Commander,
92nd Air Refueling Wing

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
Dec. 2 @ 4 p.m.
At the Fairchild Chapel
For more information, call Cherie Tedesco at 247-2572

FAIRCHILD CONNECTION

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Submissions are preferred as Microsoft Word documents, times new roman font, 10 pt. and double spaced.

E-mail submissions to 92arw.pa@fairchild.af.mil

Classified ads

For advertisement information or to address advertisement and delivery concerns, call the Cheney Free Press at (509) 235-6184.

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Reporting wind damage

Personnel with damage to their personal property on account of the severe winds Nov. 18-19, must file a claim with their private insurance company before filing with the Base Legal Office.

For more information, contact the claims office at 247-2838.

Coaches

People interested in coaching youth basketball should contact the youth center immediately.

Coaches need to complete an application to be considered for selection before the start of the season.

All coaches must be trained and certified under the National Youth Sports Coaches Association. Training can be scheduled with the youth center.

Teams will be established from Windsor, Airway Heights, Medical Lake, and Fairchild.

Lost and found

Several items have been turned into the security forces lost and found. The items relinquished to security forces as found or abandoned property include:

- 21-speed bicycle
- Pellet gun
- Mini backpack
- Beanie cap
- Scarf
- Diary
- (2) Wallets

Rightful owners of any of the above listed property, who can give a full description of the lost items, should contact security forces investigation at 247-5868, Mondays - Fridays during normal duty hours.

UFT selection board

The next undergraduate flying training board will convene at the Air Force Personnel Center March 2.

This selection board will review applications for pilot and navigator only. Those officers born after April 1, 1974 and a total federal commissioned servide date after April 1, 1999 will be eligible to apply for UFT.

Completed applications must be postmarked by Jan. 16.

Applicants should advise commanders and supervisors, who need to provide AF Form 215 comments, of the application deadline.

Applications with incomplete or missing data may not be processed. All applicants competing for pilot training must also complete the basic attributes test.

For more information on application procedures, contact the Base Formal Training Element at your Military Personnel Flight.



Airman Nathan Putz

Hole in one

Athena Viers, plays a free round of mini-golf with her father, Staff Sgt. Scott Viers, personnel readiness function assistant NCOIC, 92nd Mission Support Squadron, and sister, Katie, at the FunSpot during Family Fun Day Saturday. Family Fun Day attracted an estimated 500 people who came to enjoy the free food and activities.

The Airman's Attic

The Airman's Attic, located in the Family Support Center, provides gently used clothing, shoes, books, toys and other household items free to valid ID card holders, E-5 and below, and their families.

Every Thursday, all ranks, including retirees, may use the attic. Donations are accepted Monday through Friday, during regular business hours.

Due to limited space, furniture or other large items to give away will be posted on the "items wanted" board.

For more information, call 247-5154.

Give Parents a Break

This Air Force Aid funded service allows parent to receive four hours of free childcare at the Child

Development Center, up to age 12, twice a month.

Contact your commander, first sergeant, chaplain, on-base medical provider, family advocacy or the Family Support Center for a referral.

Hearts Apart

Hearts Apart morale calls can be made from your home by dialing the base operator at 247-1110 or 247-1212, one week after the active-duty member departs Fairchild.

The quality of life program allows dependent family members of deployed military and employees a free 15-minute call, once per week.

Deployed personnel must be in unaccompanied status at an overseas or remote geographic location, or TDY worldwide for more than 14 days.

For more information, see the Family Support Center.

Now playing at the Fairchild Theater Friday

Intolerable Cruelty (PG13)

1 hour, 40 min.



Celebrated Beverly Hills divorce attorney Miles Massey (George Clooney) is bored with his continued success and wants a real challenge. He finds it in the form of the gorgeous Marilyn Rexroth (Catherine Zeta-Jones). She's the wife of one of his clients (Edward Herrmann), a wealthy real estate developer whose infidelity is caught on tape. Marilyn and her attorney (Cedric the Entertainer), certain of a lucrative judgment in their favor, are stunned when Miles works his courtroom magic and prevails, leaving her broke. Marilyn rebounds by marrying an oil tycoon (Billy Bob Thornton), which is all part of her plan to get revenge on Miles, who finds himself attracted to this shrewd, sexy woman.

Saturday

Under the Tuscan Sun (PG13)

1 hour, 55 min.



In this film loosely based on Frances Mayes' popular memoir of the same name, Diane Lane plays a San Francisco author whose recent divorce leaves her suffering from depression and a nasty case of writer's block. On the advice of her best friend, the 35-year-old woman takes a vacation to the Tuscany region of Italy. She likes it there so much that she buys a villa in the town of Cortona. Her new life becomes even more exciting when she finds love in the arms of a handsome local (Raoul Bova).

Dec. 5

Good Boy! (PG)

1 hour, 40 min.



An alien dog named Hubble (voiced by Matthew Broderick) — from the Dog Star, Sirius, of course — travels to Earth to investigate rumors that his canine conspirators have abandoned their plan to overthrow their human "masters." He's soon adopted by 12-year-old Owen Baker (Road to Perdition's Liam Aiken). Owen helps Hubble train a misfit band of neighborhood dogs to impress the Greater Dane, a leader from Sirius who is coming to Earth. The movie is a mix of live action and CGI animation.

Dec. 6

Beyond Borders (R)

2 hours, 7 min.



This love story chronicles the romance that develops between Nick Callahan (Clive Owen), an American disaster relief doctor, and Sarah Jordan (Angelina Jolie), an aristocratic philanthropist socialite who is moved by Nick's selfless humanitarian efforts and finds herself meeting up with him over several years in countries ravaged by wars and disasters.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the movie starts promptly at 7 p.m. Children 5 and under are admitted free, 6 to 11 are \$1.50 and adults are \$3. Call 247-5600 for a list of movies and times.

Education center

◆Sharpen study skills at an informative class covering study techniques, note-taking and reading comprehension. This eight-hour class is being offered Wednesday and Jan. 6 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Education and Training Center. For more information, or to register, call 247-2348.

◆Spring I Term will begin Jan. 5. Resident colleges offer a variety of associate, undergraduate and graduate programs. For more information on registration dates and classes being offered, call 247-2348.

◆The Aerospace Education Foundation is offering a scholarship for spouses pursuing associate and bachelor undergraduate or graduate and postgraduate degrees. Scholarships of \$1,000 will be awarded in March. Application packages must be completed and received by the Aerospace Education Foundation before

Jan. 30. Complete information can be picked up at the Base Education Center between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Spokane Falls Community College

Spokane Falls Community College is offering Microsoft Certified Professional and A+ Certification. For more information, contact Cheri Johnson at 533-8937.

Webster University

Webster University's Fairchild Campus offers three graduate degrees: M.B.A., M.A. in Human Resources Development, and M.A. in Computer Resources and Information Management. For more information, call 244-2079, E-mail fairchild@webster.edu, or visit us at the Education Center room 126.

Fifty-one receive CCAF diplomas

Fifty-one Air Force members received degrees from the Community College of the Air Force during Fairchild Education Center ceremonies, Oct. 30 at Club Fairchild.

Master Sgt. James Reynolds, first sergeant, 92nd Mission Support Squadron, delivered the commencement address, emphasizing the importance of continuing education.

Thirteen walked across the stage to receive the Associate of Applied Science degree diploma from Col. Anthony Hinen, vice commander, 92nd Air Refueling Wing.

Master Sgt. Brian Castillo, Maintenance Production Management; Airman 1st Class Derek Daniels, Logistics; Senior Airman Adam Gates, Survival Instructor; Airman 1st Class Edmund Dawejko, Survival and Rescue; Staff Sgt. James Gill, Logistics; Staff Sgt. Jonathan Kiley, Aerospace Ground Equipment Technology, Master Sgt. Vada Martinez, Communications Applications Technology; Master Sgt. Richard Perryman, Aerospace Ground Equipment Technology; Staff Sgt. Matthew Sidell, Survival Instructor; Staff Sgt. Lasandra Stout, Information Management; Senior Airman Lapedra Tolson, Audiovisual Production Services; Tech. Sgt. William Werelus, Instructor of Technology and Military Science; Master Sgt. Terry Whitworth, Human Resources Management/Avionic Systems Technology

Colonel (retired) William Moore, president, Air Force Association Inland NW #245, announced the graduate receiving the Pitsenbarger Award Scholarship of \$400.00 as Senior Airman Lapedra Tolson. Chief Master Sgt. Lloyd Tyre, representative, Fairchild Chief's Association, announced Airman Tolson as the recipient of the Chief's Association Grant of \$250.00. Our congratulations to Airman Tolson as she continues to pursue a bachelor's degree.

President signs defense bill

President George Bush signed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, Monday.

According to Maj. Trent Edwards, commander, 92nd Comptroller Squadron, the \$401 billion bill contains targeted pay raises up to 6.25 percent for career senior NCOs.

Junior officers will receive a 3.2 percent pay raise while the bulk of Team Fairchild's enlisted corps will receive a pay raise between 3.7 and 5.75 percent. On average our military members will receive a 4.1 percent "across-the-board" pay raise.

"This pay raise helps our military members keep pace with the growing cost of inflation and provides a sense of financial security to families who have spouses deployed to distant lands," said Major Edwards.

A copy of the pay raise chart is available at the finance office.

Another provision that supports Major Edwards' statement is the continuation of hostile fire/imminent danger pay and family separation allowance. The bill makes permanent, throughout fiscal year 2004, the increase from \$150 to \$225 per month for hostile fire pay/imminent danger pay and the increase from \$100 per month to \$250 per month for family separation allowance.

"One of the most financially significant provisions in the bill extends the total number of years military members have to qualify for personal residence. They may also be

excluded from federal taxes for up to \$250,000 in profit from the sale of their home," said Major Edwards.

Previously, a member had to live in their home for two of the last five years.

"Increased operational tempo made it difficult for military members to take advantage of the home-sale-rule," he said. "Under the new rule, military members and foreign service personnel who have lived in their home for two of the last 10 years qualify for the home-sale tax exclusion rule."

Of significant importance to Team Fairchild is the approval for the Air Force to lease 20 Boeing 767 planes as in-flight refuelers, and purchase 80 more.

Major Edwards said, "Overall, the bill supports current and future national security initiatives along the lines of procurement, research, development, test and evaluation, modernization, operations and maintenance, education and training and military personnel. Most importantly, it supports Team Fairchild's objective of providing the best air mobility for America through reliable air refueling and airlift worldwide."

For more information on the National Defense Authorization Act, see the House Armed Services Committee Web site at www.house.gov/hasc/, contact the finance office at 247-3748 or e-mail them at 92cpts.finance@fairchild.af.mil.

(Courtesy of the 92nd Comprtoller Squadron)



Senior Airman Veronica Howard

Breakfast of champions

Second Lt. Yolanda Gonzalez, section commander, and Airman 1st Class Amy Contreras, traffic management apprentice, both from the 92nd Logistic Readiness Squadron, listen to a member of the Daedalian team during breakfast Tuesday. Fairchild is one of three finalists being evaluated for the Daedalian award.

“Kitty Hawk for Cancer” crossing the country

Story and photo by
Airman Christie Putz
92nd Public Affairs

A modern-day replica of a Wright brother's era aircraft, the Breezy, departed its first stop of Fairchild Saturday, to continue on its journey to Kitty Hawk, N.C., in celebration of the Centennial of Flight.

Bob Alm, pilot, Kitty Hawk for

Cancer, also has an ulterior mission along with the centennial of flight, he said.

“President Kennedy said in his era that by the end of the decade, someone was going to the moon — and we did,” said Mr. Alm. “If we took the same initiative to finding a cure for cancer, it could be done.”

Mr. Alm, who lost both of his parents to the disease, has completed a couple

missions for the cause.

“In '97 and '98, I traveled to 48 of the states, giving rides to cancer patients and raising awareness throughout the people,” he said. “We keep a log of all the people who ride in the plane — at one time we counted it and there were over 3,000 signatures.”

This trip, Mr. Alm has a cancer ribbon tied to the side of his plane and is collecting signatures from cancer survivors, patients and supporters. At the end of their journey he hopes to be able to present it to the president in hopes of a national commitment, he said.

“We plan to make it to Kitty Hawk, N.C., by Dec. 15,” said Mr. Alm. “December 17 at 10:35 eastern time marks the 100 year anniversary of powered flight, which took place in Kitty Hawk.”

Their journey across the states was originally supposed to begin in Seaside, Or., but due to inclement weather, Seaside was skipped.

“Our journey now starts from here,” he said.

The Breezy is an experimental, or home-built, aircraft that a

Minnesota native built in 1983, said Mr. Alm. He originally bought it for his trip through the states in '97, but has since been using it for the same cause.

“The Breezy has all the key components of a regular aircraft,” he said. “It may look fragile, but it can handle crosswinds, takeoffs and landings better than most aircraft today.”

The openness of the plane serves to make it more stable, but at the same time creates the need for warm clothing and for everything to be tethered down, including the map that is used for navigation.

“Our chart is encased in plastic and is folded so we can see approximately 80 miles,” he said. “After that you either have to land and refold, or wing it.”

The plane has minimal instruments, but that's all that are needed, he said.

“It's average speed is about 70 miles per hour, and it tops out around 85 or 90,” he said. “Thirty-five is the slowest it can go.”

From Fairchild, the plane refueled in Coeur D'Alene, then continued on its mission to Kalispell, Mont. Mr. Alm said he hoped to keep the stop there short in an effort to make it over the continental divide before weather worsened.

Mr. Alm's plane is named “The Anabelle” in memory of his mother who died of cancer in the spring of 1995.



After the icy landing, onlookers got to take an up-close look at the Breezy. Bob Alm, pilot, Kitty Hawk for Cancer, stopped at Fairchild as the first stop in his cross-country journey to celebrate the centennial of flight and to raise awareness about cancer, in hopes of spurring more action toward finding a cure.

Programs help officers join JAG Corps

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AFPN) — Company grade officers who want to join forces with the Air Force's Judge Advocate General Corps will have a chance from January to March.

Two programs, the Funded Legal Education Program and the Excess Leave Program, allow active-duty officers to pursue law degrees without ever leaving the Air Force, and to serve in the JAG Corps. Both programs begin accepting applications in January, and will provide the Air Force with lawyers who already have a good understanding of the military, JAG officials said.

“Commanders demand and deserve legal advisers who understand our ever-changing missions,” said Lt. Col. Peter Marksteiner, of the JAG professional development division. “FLEP supplies us with a cadre of officers whose military experience powerfully supplements their legal training to provide commanders with the very finest legal support.”

“Having JAGs with a first-hand appreciation of what it's like to work in other career fields builds an affinity with the rest of the line,” he said.

The funded program accounts for about 6 percent of accessions into the JAG Corps, Colonel Marksteiner said. But, he said, program graduates make up about 20 percent of the JAG Corps' senior leaders.

It is a paid legal-studies program for active-duty Air Force officers. Program applicants must be captains with between two and six years of active-duty service as of the first day of law school.

The leave program is an unpaid legal studies program for Air Force officers. Program applicants must have two to 10 years of active-duty service before entering law school. They must also be a captain with less than three years of time in grade or lower ranking as of the first day of law school.

Entry into the programs is not easy, Colonel Marksteiner said.

“Officers selected for FLEP typically have undergraduate grade point averages of 3.5 and Law School Admissions Test scores in the top (83rd) percentile,” he said.

Applicants must have completed all application forms and applied to a law school that has been accredited by the American Bar Association; however, acceptance into the school is not required at time of application. They must also receive their Law School Admissions Test results and complete a staff judge advocate interview by March 1.

For more information, contact Maj. Eric Dillow, staff judge advocate, at eric.dillow@fairchild.af.mil, or call 247- 2838.

Discrimination, Harassment Hotline Available

The Air Force's hotline for reporting unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment remains open for business.

The quickest method to resolve complaints is by visiting the local base military equal opportunity or the equal employment office, but the hotline is available for anyone who thinks they need to call, whenever they need to call.

The phone numbers are toll free (800) 616-3775, DSN 665-5000 or commercial (210) 565-5000. People overseas without easy access to overseas lines can e-mail contact.center@randolph.af.mil, or visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil to send Web mail or chat live with a customer service representative.

The hotline accepts calls from active-duty airmen, their family members, retirees, and civilian employees.

Callers with a discrimination or sexual-harassment concern are forwarded to a qualified military equal opportunity counselor. The counselor explains the options to pursue a complaint. All complaints are channeled to the proper authority.

Cases can be referred for investigation — in most cases to the local commander and MEO or EEO office officials.

Counselors take calls Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST. After hours voice mail takes messages. Counselors return phone calls the following duty day, officials said. For emergencies, people should contact a supervisor, commander, command post or the police.



Senior Airman Veronica Howard

Operation WarmHeart volunteers load Thanksgiving dinners onto a truck in preparation for delivery. The meals contain a full Thanksgiving dinner, and are given to less fortunate or financially troubled families.

Operation WarmHeart:

Making the holidays a little brighter

By Airman Christie Putz
92nd Public Affairs

Along with the word Thanksgiving, a picture of a huge feast sitting on a table surrounded by friends and family pops into most minds. But what if this word brings fear, or even feelings of inadequacy?

“Operation WarmHeart is a fund managed by the wing’s First Sergeant Council to assist those in need, less fortunate or in emergency cases that do not qualify for Air Force Aid,” said Master Sgt. Sarita Pointek, first sergeant, 92nd Civil Engineer Squadron, and First Sergeant Council vice president. “Putting food on the table for a family until pay issues get straightened out, or giving a loan to a family to purchase airline tickets to get home for a family death are just some of the things Operation WarmHeart can help out on.”

However, while most of their contributions go unnoticed, the holidays are a time for them to shine.

This year, they have worked to provide a feast for over 100 families all over base.

“This Thanksgiving, 130 names were submitted by supervisors to their respective first sergeants to receive a traditional Thanksgiving meal,” said Sergeant Pointek.

The full meals include a turkey, potatoes, dressing, gravy, yams, vegetables, pies and rolls, she said.

The planning for this type of event starts far earlier in the year, with many fund-raising events that help raise money for the many needs of the program.

“The first sergeant’s Mother’s Day rose sale and the warmheart golf tournament are the two major fund-raisers of the year,” she said.

Then the real action begins. The first sergeants work together with volunteers on base, as well as private organizations including the Top 3 and commissary vendors to support the operation, she said. The baskets are put together, and eventually delivered to the chosen families.

“Either the shirts or other volunteers in the unit will deliver to the families’ homes or work centers,” she said. “They are usually delivered the Friday before Thanksgiving.”

This is not the first time Fairchild has done this. Most bases have a long-standing tradition of helping families out over the holidays.

“Operation WarmHeart, or something similar, has been around most bases ever since I can remember,” said Sergeant Pointek. “I was once a grateful recipient at Robins AFB, Ga., in 1988.”

During this time of the year, many people get joy from sharing with others.

“If anyone would like to donate prizes for the golf tournament that is held in September, please contact any first sergeant, or monetary donations can be made through any first sergeant any time of the year,” she said.

Code Silver: Fairchild is first Air Force base to test exercise

By 2nd Lt. Tiffany Payette
92nd Public Affairs

The 92nd Medical Group participated in a two-day, tabletop exercise, formally called Code Silver, Nov. 18-19 at the education center.

Code Silver was conducted to increase readiness and decrease mission impact from weapons of mass destruction terrorist attacks on or near Air Force installations.

“Fairchild was chosen to be the Air Force prototype because of the great reputation of the 92nd Medical Group staff and other base agencies,” said Col. David Womack, commander, 92nd MDG. “The headquarters staff knew they could come here, have a great exercise and get good feedback to help them refine their exercise before they launched it worldwide.”

“Fairchild has an excellent reputation at Air Mobility Command and Air Staff for being a mature base,” said Maj.

Krystal Murphy, technical project officer, AMC. “[By participating in this exercise,] Fairchild has a tremendous opportunity to shape the Air Force.”

“It’s very gratifying to know our effort will ripple to every other Air Force Medical Group — and it’s wonderful to serve with such high-quality professionals,” said Colonel Womack.

“The purpose of this exercise was to provide a constructive ‘no-threat’ environment which would cultivate relationships among responders, to include the local community and other federal agencies. The overarching goal was to ensure this exercise was a learning opportunity for all those involved,” said Capt. Paul Bailey, medical readiness flight commander, 92nd Aeromedical Dental Squadron.

Participants included 37 personnel from 14 different organizations around Fairchild, the local community and the Air Force. Visitors included technical project officers from headquarters AMC



Lt. Col. Wade Weisman

The 92nd Medical Group, with base and local community support agencies, participated in a two-day, tabletop exercise Nov. 18-19 at the education center. Fairchild is the first Air Force base to conduct the Code Silver exercise, serving as a pilot base for the entire Air Force.

and headquarters Air Force Material Command, a Code Silver implementation officer from the U.S. Air Force Surgeon General’s office and contractors from L3 Communications.

As a result of Code Silver, the MDG is reviewing its Medical Contingency Response Plan to ensure WMD response capabilities and checklists are validated, and opportunities for training between the MDG and local public health agencies were identified, said Captain Bailey.

Code Silver also resulted in a deeper understanding of the capabilities,

response and the way we interact with base personnel and the local community, said Captain Bailey.

The expertise and feedback from the local community, base personnel and the MDG participants was invaluable and helped ensure the exercise was a success, said Captain Bailey.

“After participating in Code Silver, I am confident that Team Fairchild is ready to respond to a biological or chemical warfare attack,” said Colonel Womack.

“It’s very gratifying to know our effort will ripple to every other Air Force Medical Group — and it’s wonderful to serve with such high-quality professionals,”

Colonel David Womack
Commander, 92nd Medical Group

Storm damage brings civil engineers to the rescue

By 2nd Lt. Ethan Stoker
92nd Public Affairs

At approximately 7:30 a.m., Nov. 20, a large windstorm hit Fairchild causing roof damage to the fitness center, wood skills center, aquatic center, outdoor adventure program, traffic management office, base supply and a steel airfield ramp lighting pole. The 92nd Civil Engineer Squadron and Pacific Steel and Recycling worked

quickly to clean up the damage and hauled off the heavy galvanized steel roof parts from the buildings.

The wind tore off approximately 22,300 pounds of steel, covering approximately 90 yards, said Diane Wulf, pollution prevention program manager, 92nd CES. Four loads of approximately 17,300 pounds were loaded by 92nd CES and carried off by Pacific Steel and Recycling to be recycled.

Due to the recent snowstorms, the clean up

process has been delayed until better weather conditions prevail.

“A portion of the roofing remains on base. Since airfield snow removal is a priority, our heavy repair element resources were diverted from the salvage operation to snow control operations,” said Stanley Mrzygod, operations flight deputy, 92nd CES.

The remaining 5,000 pounds will be hauled off as soon as the weather clears.

While the clean up was being conducted at TMO and base supply, CES discovered a 90-foot stress crack in one of the ramp light poles caused by the windstorm. CES on-site welders were able to temporarily repair the crack, which was later removed after the winds had subsided.

The windstorm was not a routine exercise for the CES Unit Control Center. The windstorm enabled CES to demonstrate its ability to respond quickly to ensure the safety of the Fairchild population.

“All flights within CES were immediately engaged in storm damage activities and performed splendidly as a unified team,” said Mr. Mrzygod.

The aquatic center is closed until further notice. The wood skills center is closed until January due to the installation of a new vacuum system.



Courtesy photo

A member of the 92nd Civil Engineer Squadron uses a forklift to fill a dumpster with the remains of the steel roof. Due to severe weather,

the clean-up is still not complete. Approximately 5,000 pounds of steel roofing remain to be removed once the weather breaks.

Soldiers’ & Sailors’

Civil Relief act helps military members

By Tech. Sgt. Martie Capoeman
92nd Public Affairs

Is your mortgage payment out of control. Are you in credit card debt or considering bankruptcy?

If you’re a member of the armed services, you may qualify for assistance under the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Civil Relief Act of 1940.

Under SSCRA, members may qualify for a reduced interest rate on their mortgage payments; reduced interest rates on credit card debt; protection from eviction if rent is \$1,200 or less; and delays of civil court actions, such as bankruptcy, foreclosure or divorce proceedings, just to name a few areas of protections, according to the 92nd Staff Judge Advocate Office.

For example, if before entering active duty, a military member incurs a loan or obligation with interest rates higher than 6 percent, the member can apply to the lender for a 6 percent cap on the interest, according the SJA Office.

The cap applies only for obligations that pre-date military service and only while the member is on active duty status. It does not apply in certain circumstances; for example, federally guaranteed student loans are exempt from SSCRA protection and the obligations of dependents are covered in only limited circumstances.

“I made more money the year before joining the military,” said Airman 1st Class Ryan Van Ornum, mobile communications apprentice, 92nd Communications Squadron.

“I found out about the program in tech school at Keesler AFB, Miss., and signed up for it then. I sent the form to my creditors and they dropped my interest rate to 6 percent. My truck payment dropped \$90-\$95 per month and my credit card also dropped.”

Active duty can participate, however some restrictions include not covering spouses except in limited circumstances and in most cases, a member must send written notice in order to assert their rights under SSCRA, said Capt. Patricia Gruen, Chief of Civil Law, 92nd Legal Office.

The SSCRA not only benefits those entering the military but also Reservists and Guard members when they are called to active duty. In addition, the

protection generally runs from the date a person entered active duty, to 30 –90 days after the date of discharge, according the SJA Office.

Other benefits of the act include a stay of proceedings;

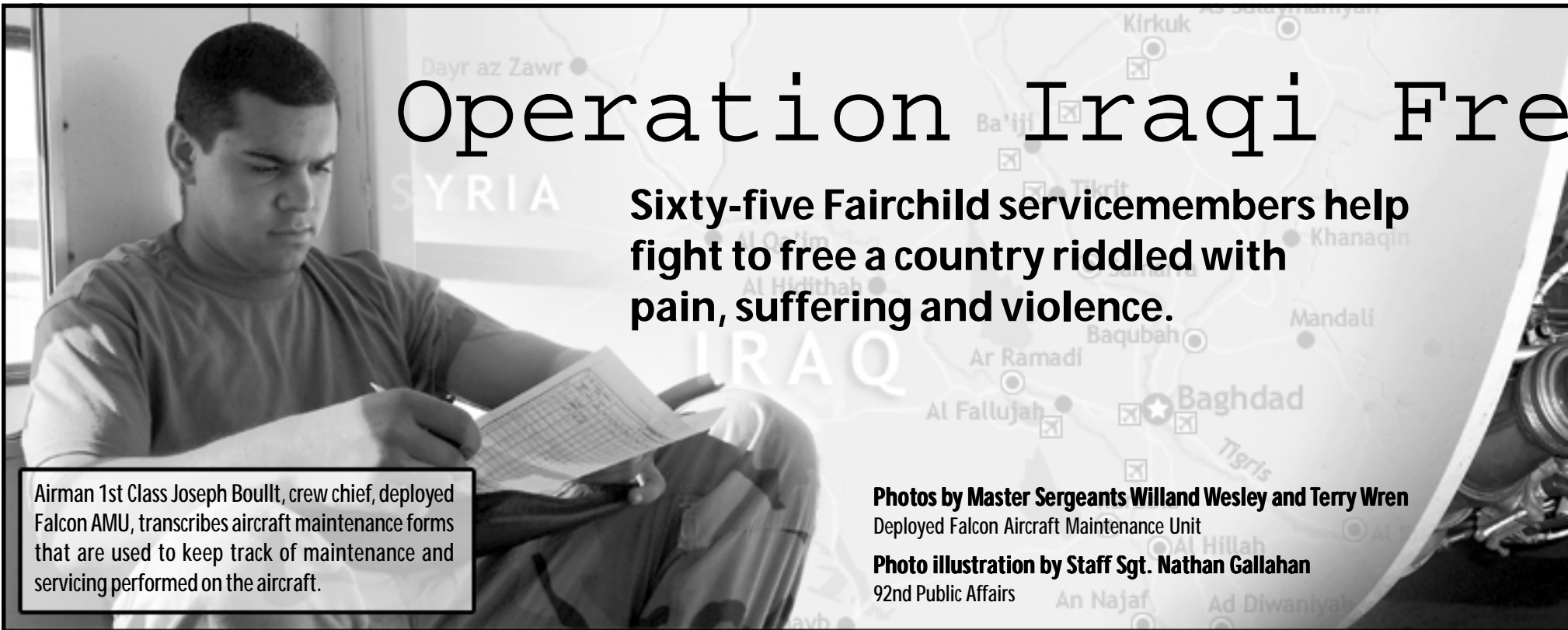
default judgment; insurance protection; taxation and prohibits creditors and insurers from taking adverse action against a military member who exercises rights under the SSCRA.

“SSCRA is a complex federal law,” said Captain Gruen. “Seek legal advice if you feel you have rights under the law that you would like to assert.”

To learn more about the SSCRA log on www.defenselink.mil/specials/Relief_Act_Revisions/history or contact 92nd SJA Office at 247-2838.

Soldiers’ and Sailors’ benefits:

- ◆ Reduced interest rate on mortgage payments
- ◆ Reduced interest rate on credit card debt
- ◆ Protection from eviction if rent is \$1,200 or less
- ◆ Delay of all civil court actions, such as bankruptcy, foreclosure or divorce proceedings



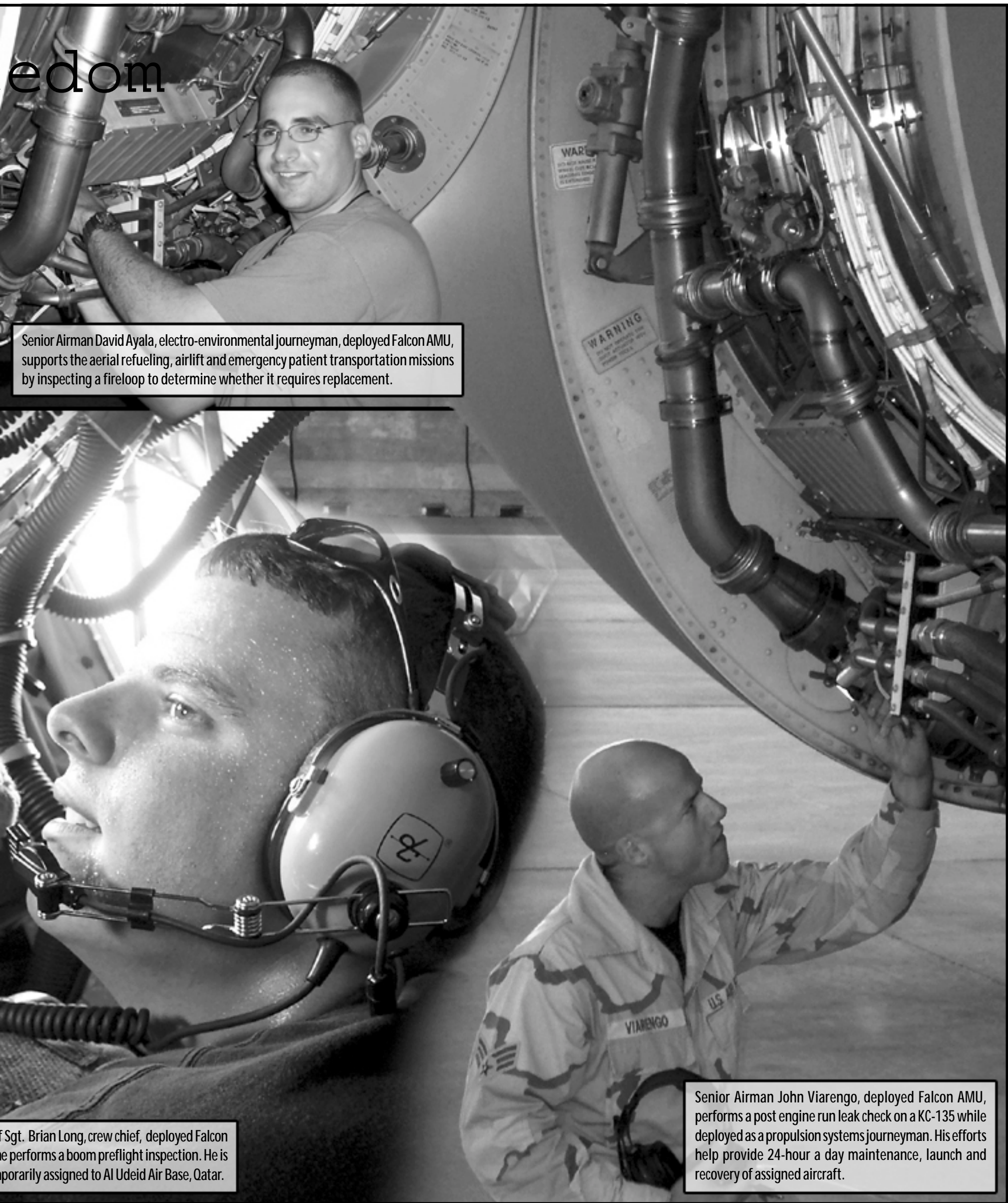
Airman 1st Class Joseph Boullt, crew chief, deployed Falcon AMU, transcribes aircraft maintenance forms that are used to keep track of maintenance and servicing performed on the aircraft.

Photos by Master Sergeants Willand Wesley and Terry Wren
Deployed Falcon Aircraft Maintenance Unit
Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan
92nd Public Affairs



Airman 1st Class Peter Morrow, crew chief, services an aircraft tire, he is temporarily assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Beads of sweat flow off of Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan, a member of the 92nd Public Affairs, as he works on the aircraft. He is one of 65 servicemembers temporarily assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.



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Senior Airman David Ayala, electro-environmental journeyman, deployed Falcon AMU, supports the aerial refueling, airlift and emergency patient transportation missions by inspecting a fireloop to determine whether it requires replacement.

F Sgt. Brian Long, crew chief, deployed Falcon AMU, performs a boom preflight inspection. He is temporarily assigned to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

Senior Airman John Viarengo, deployed Falcon AMU, performs a post engine run leak check on a KC-135 while deployed as a propulsion systems journeyman. His efforts help provide 24-hour a day maintenance, launch and recovery of assigned aircraft.

Fairchild's Holiday Card Contest unwraps

Story and photo by Airman Nathan Putz

92nd Public Affairs

Squadron and base organizations put their creative minds to the test for the contest hosted by the 92nd Services Squadron and 92nd Civil Engineer Squadron.

"Six to ten squadrons and base organizations participated in the contest this year," said Dave Keister, skills development director, 92nd Services Squadron. "It's a competition to promote holiday spirit among the squadrons."

Squadrons began picking up their card kits, last week from the 92nd CES, Zone One, Self-Help Center.

Designs for the competition are up to the creators of the card. Each squadron or organization has the opportunity to create their own theme and promote the holiday spirit.

The design for the 92nd CES card this year came from Dave Franklin, paint shop, 92nd CES.

"I feel the design covers the concept of all the civil engineer functions and also incorporates a holiday spin," said 2nd Lt. Megan Kranenburg, environmental programs officer, 92nd CES.

"We took first place last year and are prepared to defend our title this year," she added.

Contestants are given a four-by-eight foot plywood board, on which they design their cards.

The cards will be put on display and judged by a designated panel of judges. The panel is comprised of officers, enlisted and children.

Judging for the competition is Dec. 22 and the top three cards will be awarded Services' bucks.

Participants for each squadron and their workgroup will need to bring their cards for display Dec. 8 between the Class Six store and Club Fairchild along Fairchild Hwy.

"The contest is a wonderful opportunity to take



Second Lt. Megan Kranenburg, environmental officer, Senior Airman Kandice Caputo, nuclear biological chemical instructor, readiness, and 2nd Lt. Scott Wallace, facilities engineer, all members of the 92nd Civil Engineer Squadron, attempt to finish their card Monday in the 92nd CES paint shop. Squadrons and organizations around base are encouraged to participate, as cards will be displayed for the public along Fairchild Hwy. Judging for the competition is Dec. 22.

part in competition with other squadrons, but also inspire camaraderie among the troops," said Senior Airman Kandice Caputo, nuclear biological chemical instructor, 92nd CES.

"The squadron has more than 40 people deployed through the holiday season and being as

close of a squadron as we are, you can feel the empty space they left behind. We have them and their families in our hearts and minds this holiday season," said Lieutenant Kranenburg.

For more information about this year's contest, contact Dave Keister at 247-4965.

Deployed airmen do their best to keep theater mail flowing

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott

Air Force Print News

BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Iraq — Eighteen airmen, most wearing two or three stripes, spend several hours a day in a sun-baked warehouse just off the tarmac here. They are touching the lives of each deployed servicemember and civilian in Iraq.

"We're responsible for all mail, in and out," said Tech. Sgt. Darrin Robertson, mail control activity team chief, 447th Expeditionary Communications Squadron. "When planes come in, we have to account for every piece of mail."

According to Sergeant Robertson, his team handles the more than 150,000 pounds of mail per day that flows to and from every air post office in American camps in Iraq.

"We usually have four planes come in each day, not to mention the outbound mail," said Airman 1st Class Amanda Turnbo, who is

deployed from the 31st Communications Squadron at Aviano AB, Italy.

"I was overwhelmed when I first saw (the amount of mail)," she said.

The airmen do not sort or distribute individual letters or packages; soldiers do most of that. Still, they have plenty of work to keep them occupied.

"We're hauling bags and boxes for at least seven hours a day," said Senior Airman Parron Outing, deployed from the 96th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Eglin AFB, Fla. "It's definitely physical labor. I have no doubt I'll be ready for the new fitness test."

No matter how many planeloads of incoming mail arrive or how many pallets of outgoing mail they have to build, the team chief said his crew is into their work.

"We have a good group here, and the mail really moves," said Sergeant Robertson, who is just one the members deployed from the Air

Warfare Center, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

The airmen obviously can not see what is in the letters and packages, but occasionally messages to and from home are there for all to see.

"The best part of the job is the

decorations (on the mail)," said Airman 1st Class Rose Jaramillo, also deployed from Maxwell's AWC. "When you see things saying 'I love you' and other things, you really know you're passing on the love."



Master Sgt. Keith Reed

Airman 1st Class Christine Mayor, Senior Airman Alaine Wallace and Capt. Denise Freimuth load mail onto pallets in 100-plus degree temperatures. The 447th Expeditionary Communications Squadron team handles more than 150,000 pounds of mail to and from air post offices at American camps in Iraq daily.

Activities participates in: Volleyball, softball, basketball and roping bulls.

Training: Cardio workouts, three days a week.

Favorite sport: Ping pong.

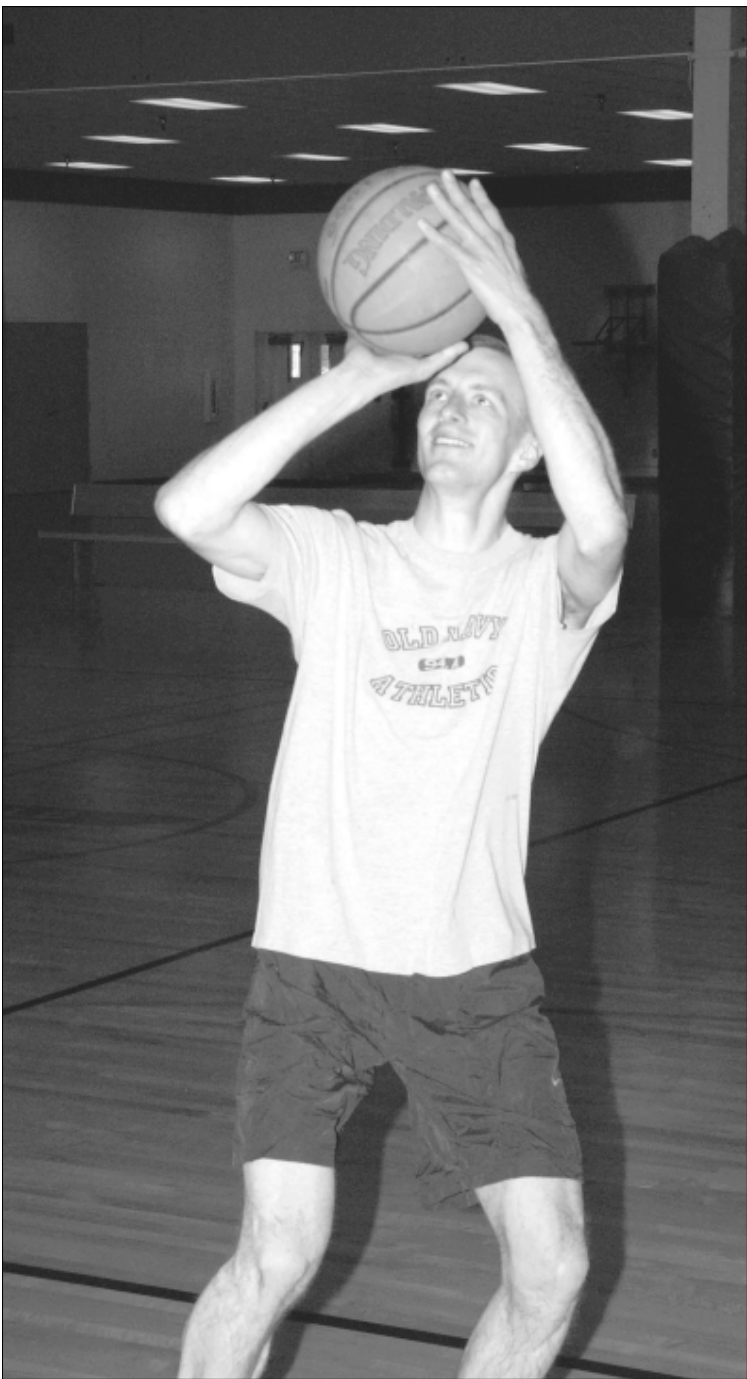
Fitness accomplishment: Taught gymnastics for six years and participates in intramural softball and volleyball.

Advice: Anyone can workout - they just need to want the results.

Goal: Score above 95 percent on the new fitness test.

Motivation: To keep in shape and stay healthy.

Motto: “When in doubt, stretch out.”



Airman Nathan Putz

Athlete of the Week

Derek Miller

WELLNESS TIP

Fitness = Readiness = Health

Physical inactivity is a more specific predictor of a shortened life span than smoking, high blood pressure and heart disease

- ✓ Every two-minute decrease in the time it takes to run one mile reduces the risk of death by 12 percent.
- ✓ The fittest people have the lowest risk of death regardless of underlying conditions.
- ✓ Regular exercise warrants at least as much attention as smoking cessation and control of high blood pressure.

